

November Highlights

Monthly News Summary

Dear Respected Member,

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is delighted to share its previous month's activities with you:



4th India's Spectrum Management Conference-2024 (ISMC-2024): The month started with the most anticipated event of the year, "The 4th India Spectrum Management Conference (ISMC-24)", IAFI's premier annual mega event, took place on November 7th and 8th, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. This year's conference brought together 200 participants, including 16 international experts and 45 Indian spectrum experts from different organizations, to engage in comprehensive discussions on critical spectrum-related challenges and opportunities. ISMC-24 served as a vital platform for in-depth analysis of spectrum policy, allocation, pricing, utilization, and future trends, with a focus on international best practices and their relevance for India. The conference fostered high-level networking among key stakeholders, shaping the future of India's spectrum ecosystem. The inaugural session was honoured by the presence of distinguished leaders such as Mr. Mario Maniewicz (Director, Radiocommunication Bureau, ITU), Mr. Masanori Kondo (Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity), and senior officials from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ms. Madhu Arora, Member Technology, DCC, DoT, Shri Rohit Sharma, Member (Services), DCC, DoT, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI and Shri V J Christopher, Wireless Advisor to the Govt. of India & Head, WPC Wing, DoT. Total eight sessions were arranged to discuss critical issues, like session regarding WRC-27 preparations, Chaired by Mr. Alexander Kuhn, Chairman CPM-27; session regarding developing the spectrum roadmap for growth of 4G, 5G, and 6G mobile services in India, Chaired by Mr. MPS Alava; session regarding Spectrum Auctions moderated by Shri Pankaj Sharma of E&Y; regarding Spectrum needs of Broadcasting, PMSE and Radio Astronomy Chaired by Shri Viresh Goyal; regarding importance of spectrum in Digital India and ubiquitous connectivity chaired by Ms. Isabelle Mauro DG, GSOA and the session on spectrum for satellite services Chaired by Shri Amit Gulati, Sr. DWA, WPC. The final session was chaired by Shri R.K. Upadhyaya, CEO, C-DoT regarding "Workshop on 6G". Many prominent speakers Dr. Sendil Kumar Devar, Director, Standards and Spectrum, Ericsson, Mr. Luigi Ardito, Spectrum Group Chairman, GSA, UK, Dr. Vinosh Babu James, Director, Technical Standards, Qualcomm, Dr. Stuart Cooke, Senior Director of Future Spectrum, GSMA, UK, Prof Radhakrishnan Ganti, IIT Chennai, Shri A. Jishnu, Principal Product Architect, Tejas Networks, Shri Prashant Kumar, DDG CA TEC, DOT, Prof Paresh Saxena, Associate Professor, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad, Prof Rajeev Shorey, Director, IIIT Surat, Professor Monisha Ghosh, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame, USA shared insightful thoughts. Shri R.K. Pathak, DG, Bharat 6G Alliance act as the session coordinator and moderator. Closing remarks and vote of thanks were delivered by Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI.

Meeting of the Focus Group on Costing Models for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD): IAFI presented two contributions in the Focus Group on Costing Model for Affordable Data Services (FG-CD) meeting, held virtually on 26-11-2024. The FG-CD was established under ITU-T Study Group 3 on 10th March 2023. The Term of Reference (ToR) of the Focus Group is to analyse the supply-chain of telecom/ICT, the multiple cost models and pricing strategies used for mobile data services and Internet services and study the policy, economic, regulatory and standardization aspects related to cost models for affordable data services, including best practices of cost assessment methodologies and economic models.

IAFI presented following two contributions in the meeting.

- 1. FG-CD-I-065 The Role of IPv6 in Optimizing Network Infrastructure and Reducing Internet Data Cost. Through this contribution, IAFI proposed that how the IPv6 is capable to reduce the cost of the internet data. India, with an impressive 83% IPv6 adoption rate, leads the world in IPv4 to IPv6 transition, also enjoys one of the most affordable internet data countries globally. This demonstrates the correlation between widespread IPv6 implementation and reduced costs for consumers.
- 2. FG-CD-I-064 To analyse the challenges in providing Affordable Data in a Complex Market. IAFI has previously submitted a questionnaire for consideration. To facilitate more efficient data collection and analysis, it was proposed by the members that questioner attached should be in the yes/no format, to simplify the response submission and streamline the process of drawing meaningful inferences from the collected data. Both the contributions were discussed and agreed by the member countries. It was agreed in the meeting that questioners proposed by the IAFI will be circulated by the ITU to all members for providing feedback.

IAFI letter to PMO to delicense lower 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi use The IAFI in a letter to PMO urges to delicense the lower 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) for Wi-Fi 6E use, as it would generate significant economic benefits for India, estimated at US\$2.9 billion, by boosting local manufacturing, innovation, and exports of Wi-Fi 6E enabled devices. IAFI in the letter shared a recent study presented at the 4th Indian Spectrum Management Conference 2024, a flagship event by the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI), reveals significant economic potential for India in the lower 6 GHz band. Study conducted by Prof. Raul Katz, a leading telecom expert, estimates the value of the 5925-6425 MHz band to the Indian economy at US\$2.9 billion (Rs. 24467 Crores). This finding underscores the importance of delicensing this band for Wi-Fi 6E to unlock substantial economic benefits for the country.

Delicensing would also align India with global trends, as most of the countries have already opened this band for unlicensed use. Wi-Fi 6E offers faster speeds, improved latency, and reduced congestion, crucial for various applications and industries. It also promotes digital inclusion by enabling wider internet access and fosters a thriving tech innovation ecosystem. Despite potential opposition from mobile operators, the urgency to delicense the 6 GHz band is critical for India's technological advancement and economic growth. IAFI urges for immediate action to secure this valuable spectrum resource to empower India's digital future and humbly requested to kindly announce the lower 6 GHz band for license exempt use of Wi-Fi urgently so that software and hardware exporters in India could access this huge global market.

IAFI Radio Group meeting: The IAFI Radio Group meeting was convened on November 27, 2024, in hybrid format, to identify and finalize topics, on which IAFI can submit contributions for the upcoming meetings of the Working Party 5D (WP-5D) of ITU-R, tentatively scheduled for 04-13 February, 2024. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the meeting. Total 18 potential issues were discussed in the meeting and 12 issues were ultimately selected for submission. It may be noted that the deadline for submission of the contribution is 23-01-2025.

Fourth Meeting of WG-3 of NFAP 2022 Review/ Revision Committee: Fourth meeting of Working Group 3 (WG-3) of the NFAP-2022 Review/ Revision Committee was held on 29th November 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri M.K.Pattanaik, JWA, WPC in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting. IAFI proposed modifications to the India Footnote IND-17 concerning frequency bands 14-14.5 GHz, 28.5-30 GHz, 10.7-11.7 GHz, 12.5-12.75 GHz and 17.7-20.2 GHz for ESIM services. IAFI submitted one more input contribution for simplification of the IND Remark IND-16. In addition, IAFI submitted one more document regarding delicensing of upper 6 GHz band from 6425-7025 MHz for Wi-Fi usage, as 90 countries has already delicensed the same. Contributions submitted by SIA-India, BIF, IAFI and Susan Future Technologies were discussed. Meeting reviewed the complete frequency band ranging from 86 GHz to 275 GHz. Meeting also discussed to review the International Footnotes 5.563AA and 5.564A. Agenda for the next WG-3 meetings (fifth and sixth) was also discussed. It was suggested that parts of the NFAP, beyond the frequency allocation tables and footnotes, require further review and improvement. To address this, the formation of a separate adhoc group was proposed.

Third Meeting of WG-2 of NFAP 2022 Review/Revision Committee: Third meeting of Working Group 2 (WG-2) of the NFAP-2022 Review/ Revision Committee was held on 27th November 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri N K Bhola, JWA and Director WMO, in a hybrid mode. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI participated in the meeting in the WPC office. IAFI proposed modifications to the India Footnote IND-16 concerning various IMT frequency bands towards simplification of this IND remark. In addition, IAFI submitted one more document regarding V2X/ITS band in 5 GHz. Detailed discussions were held on various proposals to develop consensus.

IAFI Comments to TRAI – 19-11-2024: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper on October 22, 2024, addressing the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorizations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act of 2023. The IAFI reviewed the consultation paper and, after discussions with industry partners, submitted its comments to TRAI on November 19, 2024. In its response, the IAFI urged TRAI to adopt progressive policies under the Telecommunications Act of 2023 and highlighted key reforms needed to ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access, and an innovation-friendly regulatory environment. These include empowering enterprises with private 5G networks and streamlining regulatory frameworks. These comments have been published on TRAI's website. IAFI response was covered in a IAFI press release advocating for transformative telecom policy reforms to unlock India's digital potential, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) has called for spectrum allocation and streamlined registration processes for satellite gateway earth stations. The press release also quoted IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia emphasizing that these recommendations aim to align India's telecom ecosystem with global best practices and promote innovation across industries. He believes that

ensuring equitable access to spectrum will be crucial in catalysing India's journey towards becoming a global digital leader.



Meeting of the WG-1 of NFAP-2022: 4th Meeting of the Working Group-1 (Freq. upto 1 GHz) of NFAP-2022 Review/Revision was held on 20.11.2024, under the Chairmanship of Shri Viresh Goel, Joint Wireless Adviser, WPC Wing, DoT, in the virtual mode. Last Meeting of WG-1 (3rd) was held on 08th Oct, 2024, where IAFI submitted the following three contributions.

 a. Revised footnote IND 16 for IMT identification in multiple frequency bands - 612-960 MHz, 1427-1518 MHz, 1710-2200 MHz, 2300-2450 MHz, 2500-2690 MHz, 3300- 3670 MHz, 24.25-27.5 GHz, 37-43.5 GHz, 47.2- 48.2 GHz, 66-71 GHz.

b. Proposal for NB-IOT use in 918-922 MHz - 867-868 MHz, 918-922 MHz.

c. Proposal for PMSE - 174-230 MHz and 470- 698 MHz.

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI attended the meeting and all above documents were discussed along with many other proposals.

IAFI Radio Group meeting regarding SG-5/WP-5D: The IAFI Radio Group convened a hybrid meeting on November 20, 2024, to finalize its contributions for the upcoming meetings of ITU-R Study Group 5 (SG-5) and Working Party 5D (WP-5D). SG-5, focused on terrestrial services, will hold its 22nd meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from December 2-3, 2024. Similarly, WP-5D, which deals with IMT systems, will meet from February 4-13, 2025, with a contribution submission deadline of January 23, 2025. During the meeting, Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI chaired the discussions on a contribution concerning the Terms of Reference (ToR) of all working parties under SG-5. IAFI believes that the existing SG-5 working structure is quite effective and should be maintained. IAFI proposed minor revisions to the ToR for working parties WP-5A and WP-5D to better reflect current activities. The meeting also included deliberations for contributions to be submitted in the upcoming WP-5D meeting.

25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25): The 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) was held at New Delhi, India from 11th to 13thNovember, 2024, gathering regulators, industry leaders, and experts from across South Asia. Hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) India and organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). Spanning three days, SATRC-25's program features key discussions that emphasize the theme of "Accelerating Telecommunication" and ICT Development for Growth and Inclusiveness," promoting digital transformation for economic and social prosperity in the region. The Meeting was inaugurated by the Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Communications in the presence of Dr Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications. SATRC-25 elected Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman, TRAI, India as the Chair of SATRC. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI was invited as guest speaker for the session regarding Regulator-Industry Dialogue on Digital Connectivity, to deliver insights on issues like ensuring sufficient spectrum access and maintain the spectrum supply; fair, predictable and transparent policy; regulatory environments for accessing spectrum resources; and harmonized spectrum usage in the region. Shri Bhatia shared a study conducted by Prof Raul Katz, President, Telecom Advisory Services, LLP, USA that allocating full 6 GHz spectrum for the use of Wi-Fi could potentially contribute \$ 4,030 Billion to Indian economy by 2034. He further informed that the DoT is currently evaluating various allocation approaches, including a division of 6 GHz band between Wi-Fi and IMT, wherein Wi-Fi would receive lower 500 MHz and IMT the upper 700 MHz.

3rd Meeting of SG-1 of ITU-D: Third Meeting of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG-1) was held in hybrid mode, from 04th to 08th November, 2024 at Geneva, Switzerland. Total 239 participants attended the meeting. SG-1 is handling issues regarding Enabling Environment for Meaningful Connectivity and consists of seven Rapporteur Groups Q-1/1 to Q-7/1. Q-1/1 – is regarding Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing

countries. Q-5/1 – is regarding Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas. IAFI presented one contribution in the Q-1/1 on 06-11-2024 and same contribution in the Q-5/1 on 07-11-2024, regarding "Minimum basic broadband services for rural and remote areas in developing countries".

BSNL launches India's first satellite-to-device service: In a ground-breaking move for Indian telecommunications, BSNL has partnered with US-based Viasat to launch India's first satellite-to-device service, extending seamless connectivity to even the most remote corners of the country. This innovative service, successfully demonstrated at the India Mobile Congress in October, utilizes Viasat's geostationary L-band satellites to enable direct communication with standard consumer devices like smartphones and IoT gadgets.

This technology eliminates the need for specialized equipment and allows users to stay connected regardless of their location, effectively bridging the digital divide. By leveraging Viasat's robust satellite network, BSNL is bringing the power of satellite communication to the masses, offering a reliable solution for both everyday communication and emergency situations. This launch marks a significant step towards a truly connected India, where geographical barriers no longer hinder access to information and essential services.

In the trial, Viasat demonstrated two-way messaging and emergency messaging using a commercial Android smartphone enabled for non-terrestrial network (NTN) connectivity. The messages were sent nearly 36,000 km to one of Viasat's geostationary L-band satellites. The outcome proves satellite services to cell phone connectivity are technically feasible for Indian consumers and businesses using Viasat's satellite network.

Direct-to-device connectivity is revolutionizing how we connect to the internet. Now, everyday devices like smartphones, smart-watches, and even vehicles can seamlessly access both terrestrial and satellite networks, ensuring uninterrupted connectivity no matter where you are. This breakthrough technology eliminates the need for bulky, specialized satellite equipment, allowing for truly mobile and ubiquitous connectivity.

5G FWA subscribers are expected to boom: India's 5G fixed wireless access (FWA) market is poised for rapid growth, with subscriber numbers expected to reach 5 million by the end of 2024 and double to 10 million in 2025, according to a recent Counterpoint Research report. This surge in adoption is largely attributed to FWA's ability to bridge the digital divide in India, where fiber deployment lags behind. While India boasts over 350 million households, the slower rollout of fiber infrastructure necessitates a complementary technology like FWA to ensure widespread broadband access. 5G FWA offers the necessary speed and capacity to cater to the masses, effectively serving as a catalyst in bringing high-speed internet to underserved areas. Reliance Jio is predicted to lead this market expansion, further solidifying its position in the Indian telecom sector.

Indian Space Association (ISpA): IAFI participated in the three-day event viz "Indian Space Conclave -2024" organized by Indian Space Association (ISpA) at Lalit Hotel, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, from 05-07 Nov, 2024.

The main issues discussed in the conference were:

1. Commercialization of Space: Opportunities and Challenges.

2. Advancing Space Communications and Global Partnerships.

3. Innovation, Security, and future Space Capabilities.

It was informed by the ISRO that India has planned to launch its first space station module by 2028, with the goal of completing a fully operational space station by 2035. Additionally, missions to the Moon, Venus, and Mars will further advance the country's capabilities, demonstrating technologies for soft landings and sample return missions that will be crucial for future crewed missions.

Open House Discussion organized by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI): The IAFI participated in a virtual Open House Discussion (OHD) hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on November 8th, 2024. The discussion was centred on TRAI's Consultation Paper addressing "Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services," which was released on September 27th, 2024. IAFI had already submitted its detailed comments on the paper on October 18th, 2024.

The OHD convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including major telecom service providers, satellite operators, industry associations, and academia, to debate key issues mentioned in the paper. A central point of contention was the proposed spectrum assignment process for NonGeostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellites, as telecom service providers and COAI were advocating for an auction-based approach with reserve prices to be linked to previous 4G/5G spectrum auctions.

Conversely, satellite players argued for administrative assignment without reserve prices and payments based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). This full-day event highlighted the contrasting perspectives on spectrum allocation for satellite-based communication services in India.

Media Showcase: Following Items relating to IAFI were covered in the media



- 1. IAFI in the comprehensive comment on TRAI Consultation Paper concerning terms and conditions of network authorization under new Telecom Act, 2023, highlighted critical reforms to ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access and innovation friendly regulatory environment Read More
- 2. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted 4 th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC- 24) on 7-8 November, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. Important pivotal issues like WRC-27 Agenda Items, Spectrum Roadmap for 4G/5G IMT technologies, 6 GHz spectrum issues, Direct broadcast to Mobile, GSO/NGSO issues and Read More
- During the 4th ISMC-24 organized by the IAFI, Prof Raul Kartz, President Telecom Advisor services, LLP, USA and Prof University of San Andres, Argentina explained the economic value of lower 6 GHz Wi-Fi spectrum, 5925-6425 MHz as Read More
- 4. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) organized 4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24) was held from 7-8 Nov, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. Event served as the prominent forum for in-depth analysis of key issues related to Read More
- 5. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) in response to a TRAI Consultation Paper submitted comprehensive response regarding the ongoing consultation paper on Telecom Commercial Communication. IAFI emphasized the need to expand the framework' scope to prevent SCAM Communication Read More
- 6. In response to TRAI Consultation Paper on service authorization granted under new Telecom Act, 2023, IAFI vehemently opposes the proposed amalgamation of the GMPCS and VSAT authorization and said that these two authorization should remain separate as Read More
- 7. IAFI calls for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Read More
- 8. Bharat Bhatia, president ITU APT Foundation of India has been elected to chair the global group in ITU that will decide the 6G standards. Read More
- Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a press release applauded TRAI for releasing a consultation paper on spectrum auction, in millimeter bands 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands, seeking comments from the stakeholders, for future 5G deployment and ensuring reliable and widespread 5G coverage in sectors like healthcare, robotics, and Industry 4.0. Read More
- 10. A new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in developing and standardizing 6G technology, to focus on enhancing India's participation in the ITU IMT-2030 framework. IAFI welcomes participation from industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in 6G Technology ecosystem and services. Read More
- 11. IAFI urges Department of Telecom for urgently delicensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi to support India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band, many major economies like USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Singapore, UAE etc, have already delicensed Wi-Fi 6e (5925-6425 MHz). Read More
- 12. During the "National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward, planning for WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings", organized by IAFI at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore, Chief Guest, the Member (Technology) announced that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) will soon initiate studies on the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). The studies will also address potential 5G coexistence issues with Aircraft Radio Altimeters. Read More
- 13. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More
- 14. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expedite the assignment of satellite spectrum without any further delay. This is to prevent potential service launch delays for VSAT and other satellite operators operating under a unified license. IAFI emphasizes that such assignments should be processed promptly under existing guidelines, without waiting for the issuance of rules under the telecom act. Read More
- 15. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a proposal by IAFI was approved to create a global report on mobile technologies for financial inclusion. The report will include insights from India's experience with UPI payments. IAFI emphasized UPI's robust security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. Read More
- 16. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications to promptly process applications for the assignment of satellite spectrum, specifically for VSAT and similar services authorized under unified licenses. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. Read More
- 17. The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) was organized by the Telecom Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecom and IAFI. The workshop focused on key topics such as the structure and organization of WTSA, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of telecommunication standardization. Read More

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing
2) Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023
4) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs
5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE
6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices under MTCTE
7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft Cases
9) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Urgent need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-Delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support innovation and make in India
10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) pertaining to Satellite Communications
11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services
12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for Spectrum Swapping

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan Industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 20 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecom sector. The members of IAFI are corporate members are 28 and individual members to 135 making a total of 163 members. The EC also emphasized on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register Eminent educational institutes as members.

The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the Foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the society on a complimentary basis. Besides, EC Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom journals where members can subscribe. Members are further eligible to participate in ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities. The individual Membership Fee of IAFI has been reversed to the previous fee that was applicable since the beginning. Please click: <u>Membership details</u>





Activities in our focus areas during August 2024



pledge to ramp up climate action across the global tech industry. With technology and environmental concerns becoming increasingly intertwined, the COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action recognizes the tech sector's growing share of global energy

consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. But the document – widely endorsed during the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) – also highlights digital technologies as a crucial tool for sustainable development. In total, the declaration received endorsements from 75 countries and over 1170 non-state entities (including companies, civil society organizations, international and regional organizations, and other stakeholders) by the time COP29 concluded on 24 November.

Against the backdrop of rising global temperatures and escalating weather-related hazards and disasters, the declaration aims to catalyse a shift towards climate-positive digital development.



APT- IAFI circulated the meeting invitation to members to register and attend the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-2), scheduled to be held from 10 to 11 December 2024, Virtual/Online Meeting.



Department of Telecommunications Ministry of Communications Government of India

Reliance Jio chairman, Akash Ambani; managing director, Pankaj Pawar; vice chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Rajan Mittal; and Vodafone Idea MD Akshaya Moondra, among others met up with Jyotiraditya Scindia. Union Minister of Communications in the Capital.

Discussion points included:

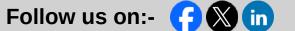
Telcos to get a fair share in the revenues from large OTT platforms; Telcos need for a level-playing field for satellite comm services;

Telecom industry highlighted issues under the GST regime. One of the most pressing issues is the non-availability of input tax credit (ITC) on the procurement of petroleum products, which has created a cascading effect. Under GST, telecom operators are unable to offset the Central Excise and VAT paid on the procurement of petroleum products, leading to increased operational costs and reduced competitiveness in the global market. Another critical challenge stems from restrictions on claiming ITC for goods and services used in the construction of telecommunication towers. This restriction has imposed a substantial financial burden on industry players, hindering infrastructure expansion and modernisation efforts, which are crucial for meeting growing consumer demands. Inconsistencies between telecom regulations prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and GST provisions have exacerbated compliance complexities.



The number of registered complaints against unregistered senders have reduced to 1.51 lakh in October compared to 1.89 lakh in August. TRAI data reveals. This makes a reduction of 20 percent from August. In September, 1.63 lakh registered complaints against unregistered senders were recorded. TRAI issued directions on August 13, 2024, mandating that any entity found to be making promotional voice calls in violation of regulations would face strict consequences. This includes disconnection of all telecom resources, blacklisting for up to two years, and a ban on

new resource allocation during the blacklisting period. Consequent to this direction, access providers have taken widespread actions which led to a significant reduction in the complaints registered against the spam calls.



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